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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 1963

TO: The Vice President

FROM: Colonel Burris

RE: Highlights

SANITIZED

Authority Date 11-2-77 + NSC 2-23-79  
By ing MARS Date 7-24-79

Cuba

A Soviet diplomat has confided that Cuba is still one of Russia's principal problems, principally because Soviet prestige is so heavily involved throughout the world, especially in the Sino-Soviet dispute. The Ambassador revealed that the Soviets hope to keep Cuba strong enough to resist internal dissension as well as incursion from other Latin American countries. The Soviets do not plan to strengthen Cuba against an American attack, but they are now convinced that JFK will not invade but will only "incite revolutions". The Ambassador described the departure of the Soviet military personnel as being a normal procedure but somewhat accelerated by U.S. pressure. He added that the Soviets have publicized the withdrawal to give the appearance of Soviet contributions to good relations with the United States.

Soviet Union

The Penkovsky espionage trial will begin soon in Moscow and is expected to produce sensational results. The Soviets simply do not publicize this kind of action without ulterior motives. The Soviets have already reported Malinovsky, the Defense Minister, to be in difficulty. His Deputy, Serov, is being held in prison, and the Chief of State Security, Zakharov, has been demoted. Public announcements of this trial, among other things, will signify a return to the severe police state security methods which have been somewhat relaxed in recent years; it might also be an apparent change in attitude toward the West for the benefit of the Chinese; but more likely it is an internal scheme of Khrushchev to reassert his will over the military who more recently have held out for more positive action and less conciliation towards the West.

Belgium

Following the breakdown of EEC negotiations in Brussels, efforts have been made at various levels to get the negotiations going again. Spaak made a special effort with the Germans, but they were willing to discuss problems in any part

of the world except in Europe.

Congo

The Adoula Government is in danger of falling. Tshombe has now offered to participate in the Adoula Government, and if he did, the Central Government might be temporarily strengthened. However, Tshombe's offer is intended to eventually gain him leadership of the Congo.

Nationalist China

Chiang Kai-shek has predicted that revolts against the Communist regime on the mainland will occur in 1963 and that these actions will provide the basis for a counterattack of the mainland. Although there has been much speculation over the years about return to the mainland and the manner in which it would be done, this is the first time that Chiang has publicly committed himself to action at a certain time. His statement reflects a change in his earlier plans which were to precipitate a revolt on the mainland. He has now come to the conclusion that deplorable conditions under the Communists will trigger the uprising. Chiang's forces are in a high state of readiness and are capable of carrying out effective isolated actions. The key to success, however, is U.S. support. U.S. policy presently is to restrain China and there is no reason to believe that this policy is subject to change. The U.S. Mission in Taipei, however, feels that there is little likelihood that Chiang's plans will materialize this year.